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Exploration and Discovery.

“THE PLACE CALLED CALVARY, WHERE THEY CRUCIFIED HIM.”¹

Two hundred yards outside the Damascus gate of Jerusalem there is an isolated, white limestone knoll, in contour like the crown of the head and about sixty feet high. It contains in its perpendicular face the most remarkable resemblance to a skull. The two eyeless sockets, the overhanging forehead, the lines of the nose, the mouth, and chin will be plainly seen in the photograph. It is also concave, and the same color as a skull.

On this bare, rounded knoll our Lord expired with that great cry which indicated cardiac rupture,

“That agonizing cry affrighted nature shook to hear.”

A mighty earthquake upheaved the solid earth and split this very rock asunder. To the right of the skull the face of the cliff is oddly riven from top to bottom as shown in the picture. The sides of this chasm correspond to each other, showing it was caused by the shock of an earthquake.

On the summit of Golgotha there is a great pit heaped over with stones (where the staff stands in picture). It was customary to bury the crucified at the foot of the cross. This pit is filled with the skeletons and bones of criminals who, from time immemorial, have been crucified and stoned. It is still known by its ancient name, “The Place of Stoning.” The bodies of criminals are still hurled into that same pit. At such times the stench is unbearable.

In springtime Calvary is carpeted with scarlet anemones and the Calvary flower, which appear like drops of blood covering the white limestone.

At the bottom of the western cliff there is a large garden with a very ancient well. Where it touches the foot of the cliff, six feet below the surface, the rock-hewn sepulcher of our Lord has been discovered. While I was in Palestine George Müller, the patriarch of faith, was led to excavate and recover the immortal tomb. Since then, its identity having been considered established, an English association, headed by the Archbishop of Canterbury and five other bishops, secured the garden, with the interior of the sepulcher, for \$15,000. In May 1896 over \$13,000 of this had been subscribed.

There is now a general concensus of agreement that this is the true Calvary. It alone fulfils the numerous and precise descriptions and the point of the compass “northward” indicated by the Scriptures.

WM. BERRYMAN RIDGES.

¹ See frontispiece.



"THE PLACE CALLED CALVARY"

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